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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/692,784	10/27/2003	Nobuchika Kobayashi	P24050	1040

7055 7590 03/19/2004

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
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RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

TA, THO DAC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/692,784	KOBAYASHI, NOBUCHIKA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tho D. Ta	2833	AW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-7,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4,8 and 11-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugiyama et al. (5,017,147).

In regard to claim 1, Sugiyama et al. discloses an electrical connector locking system, comprising: a first connector receptacle 11₁ provided on an electrical connector box 10, the first connector receptacle 11₁ configured to receive and engage with a first electrical connector 25₁; a lock cover 16 joinable to the first electrical connector 25₁ insertable into the first connector receptacle 11₁, the lock cover 16 being pivotably supported by a pivot base 13; and a first engagement portion 17 provided on the lock cover 16, the first engagement portion 17 being engageable with a second engagement portion 27 provided on the first electrical connector 25₁; wherein a double locking mechanism is formed by the first electrical connector 25₁ engaging with the first connector receptacle 11₁ upon insertion therein, and by the lock cover 16 pivoting to a position where the first engagement portion 17 engages with the second engagement portion 27 on the first electrical connector 25₁ (column 3, lines 26-33).

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In regard to claim 5, Sugiyama et al. discloses that the pivot base 13 is formed on the external surface of the first connector receptacle 111.

In regard to claim 6, Sugiyama et al. discloses that the pivot base 13 protrudes from a case of the electrical connector box 10 adjacent to the first connector receptacle 111.

In regard to claim 10, Sugiyama et al. discloses in combination with an electrical connector 251, an electrical connector locking system, comprising: a first connector receptacle 111 provided on an electrical connector box 10, the first connector receptacle 111 configured to receive and engage with the electrical connector 251; a lock cover 16 joinable to the electrical connector 251 insertable into the first connector receptacle 111, the lock cover 16 being pivotably supported by a pivot base 13; a first engagement portion 17 provided on the lock cover 16; and a second engagement portion 27 provided on the electrical connector 251, the first engagement portion 17 being engageable with the second engagement portion 27, wherein a double locking mechanism is formed by the electrical connector 251 engaging with the first connector receptacle 111 upon insertion therein, and by the locking cover 16 pivoting to a position where the first engagement portion 17 engages with the second engagement portion 27 on the electrical connector 251.

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3. Claims 1, 7, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oka (5,464,351).

In regard to claim 1, Oka discloses an electrical connector locking system, comprising: a first connector receptacle 11 provided on an electrical connector box 10, the first connector receptacle 11 configured to receive and engage with a first electrical connector 12; a lock cover 13 joinable to the first electrical connector 12 insertable into the first connector receptacle 11, the lock cover 13 being pivotably supported by a pivot base 11e; and a first engagement portion 13c provided on the lock cover 13, the first engagement portion 13c being engageable with a second engagement portion 12a provided on the first electrical connector 12; wherein a double locking mechanism is formed by the first electrical connector 12 engaging with the first connector receptacle 11 upon insertion therein, and by the lock cover 13 pivoting to a position where the first engagement portion 13c engages with the second engagement portion 12a on the first electrical connector 12.

In regard to claim 7, Oka discloses that the first engagement portion 12a comprises a latch window, and the second engagement portion 13c comprises a latch engagement tab that engages with the latch window.

In regard to claim 9, Oka discloses the first connector receptacle 11 includes a locking lip 11c located within the first connector receptacle 11, the locking lip 11c engageable with the first electrical connector 12.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-4, 8, 11-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: in regard to claim 2, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest an interference flange located in a vicinity of the first connector receptacle; and a stopper block provided on the lock cover, the stopper block engageable with the interference flange to restrict the pivoting movement of the lock cover and to keep the lock cover away from the first connector receptacle, wherein pivoting movement of the lock cover toward the first connector receptacle results in the stopper block riding over the interference flange, and the first engagement portion of the lock cover engaging with the second engagement portion of the first electrical connector.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER